



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:  
Neil A. A. Simpson, et al.

Serial No.: 10/613,341

Confirmation No.: 5149

Filed: July 3, 2003

For: Coupling Tubulars

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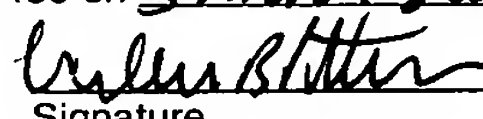
Group Art Unit: 3679

Examiner: Eric K. Nicholson

Customer No.: 36735

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING	
37 CFR 1.8	
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on <u>3 March 2004</u> .	
William B. Patterson	
Typed Name	Signature

**RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT DATED FEBRUARY 6, 2004**

In response to the Restriction Requirement dated February 6, 2004, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on March 6, 2004, please enter this response and reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below. Although Applicants believe that no additional fees are due in connection with this response, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge counsel's Deposit Account No. 20-0782/MRKS/A0093/WBP, for any fees, including extension of time fees or excess claim fees, required to make this response timely and acceptable to the Office.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper. **Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 8 of this paper.